

HONORING JAMESON KING

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jameson King. Jameson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jameson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jameson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jameson contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jameson led a team of scouts in building a new sign for the historic Macon Presbyterian Church in Macon, Missouri, refurbishing the old sign and landscaping the north side of the building.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jameson King for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF LAMP MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL: A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. MARTHA ROBY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2017*

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) High School in Montgomery, Alabama upon its being named a National Blue Ribbon School in November of the year 2016.

LAMP Magnet High School is more than deserving of this recognition. The school is currently ranked as the best high school in the State of Alabama and the 34th best high school in the country according to U.S. News and World Report.

The school consistently maintains a 95 percent graduation rate though it is currently ranked by The Washington Post as one of the most challenging high schools in America.

LAMP is also to be commended for the strong emphasis it places on extracurricular activities, community involvement and service, and parent engagement.

The City of Montgomery is fortunate to have the exceptional educational opportunities that LAMP Magnet High School offers. The school truly makes Montgomery and the State of Alabama proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Loveless Academic Magnet High School on being named a National Blue Ribbon School and celebrate this outstanding accomplishment with its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and all who cherish this remarkable school.

IN HONOR OF NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION'S GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share some very good news. Navy Federal Credit Union, the largest credit union in the world, has decided to significantly expand its activities in the 10th Congressional District. After a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, January 24th, the corporation will begin erecting a new office building and parking garage that will allow for the addition of 1,400 new employees, nearly doubling the size of its operations center in Frederick County which is in the western part of my District.

On behalf of my constituents in the Shenandoah Valley, I wish to express gratitude to the leadership of the corporation for the confidence it has placed in the hard-working people of the Shenandoah Valley and the county government whose policies have created an environment that is conducive to business growth.

Navy Federal Credit Union, whose corporate headquarters is in Vienna, Virginia, has been recognized as one of Fortune Magazine's 100 Best Companies to Work for in 2016. The company was founded in 1933 based on a "culture of service" and the 15,000 current employees take great pride in serving our nation's heroes, the current and retired men and women of our military and their families. In visiting the Winchester/Frederick County Operations Center, I was pleased to see the beautiful photos of our men and women in uniform and their families that adorn its hallways. I was also impressed by the many ways that the company provides for its employees, including a recreation center and shower facilities, a medical clinic staffed by a full-time Physician's Assistant and Nurse, and visiting professors from Lord Fairfax Community College who help further the employees' educational goals.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Navy Federal Credit Union for excellent service to our national heroes and for hiring an increasing number of fellow Americans to provide this important service.

RECOGNIZING MS. KATHLEEN REDFERN AS THE 2016-2017 WALTON COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2017*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Kathleen Redfern as the 2016-2017 Walton County Teacher of the Year. For several years, Ms. Redfern has served the Walton County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. It is recognized that the teaching profession is

one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. Redfern has exceptionally performed her teaching duties, while also striving to be an active and supportive member of her community.

Ms. Redfern is revered by her Principal and colleagues for her incredible kindness and positive attitude. She thoughtfully engages her students by employing interesting and exciting methods of focusing on their interests.

Her support and outreach extends far beyond the walls of her Kindergarten class through her sponsorship and involvement with the K-Kids Club, a Kiwanis Club program. Ms. Redfern has displayed remarkable leadership and dedicated teamwork through her outreach projects in her community. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Ms. Redfern as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Kathleen Redfern for her accomplishments and her commitment to excellence in the Walton County School District. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.

MAKING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE SECOND TO NONE

**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2017*

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent some of our nation's leading innovators in Congress, who are pioneering unprecedented improvements in manufacturing and infrastructure from Washington's First Congressional District. The exciting work being conducted by forward-thinking companies like Modumetal, a woman-owned business in Washington state, has the potential to lower the long-term costs of rehabilitating our roads and bridges while also making them safer and longer-lasting.

Christina Lomasney, co-founder of Modumetal, published an open letter to President Trump on January 6, 2017, highlighting the importance of performance-based standards as he begins to work with Congress on investments in our infrastructure. I am pleased to share her letter with my colleagues, as we look to develop infrastructure solutions that will allow us to get the best return on our investments.

President-elect Trump, on election night, you promised cheering supporters, "We're going to rebuild our infrastructure, which will become, by the way, second to none."

As we move from the script of campaigning to the act of execution, you may find a more challenging landscape than your statement belies. That's not because you won't endeavor to achieve nor that Congress won't collaborate with you to fund. But the challenge of bringing the United States back to a "top 10" infrastructure position in the world, much less number one, is one that many have tried and failed and that could, in present reality, undermine the solvency of our Nation.

In the span of the decade that precedes your Administration, we have fallen from 1st

place in Global Competitiveness, according to the World Economic Forum, to between 3rd and 7th place. This has been attributed in great part to the decades-long decline in the viability and competitiveness of our national infrastructure. (We've not even been in the top 10 of transportation infrastructures for several years).

More to the point, to keep up with expected infrastructure decline, the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates we'll need to spend \$3.6 trillion just in the next five years. This estimate doesn't get us to 1st place, this just keeps us from failing further!

Why has this issue of infrastructure become such a burden to competitiveness and our deficit? For one thing, if we continue rehabilitating our infrastructure as we have, our Nation will be stuck installing and repairing infrastructure using outdated technology from the 1930s.

Today, through the Departments of Transportation at state and federal levels, the regulatory frameworks for materials of construction define requirements that, in most cases, were set several decades to almost a century ago. For a case in point, hot-dipped galvanizing, one of the most commonly used corrosion resistant coatings technologies in the world, was specified in 1928. This specification (ASTM A123) is still actively required by most state and federal DOTs around the country. Epoxy-coated rebar, considered a "new" and now widely specified technology, was finally specified for use in the 1970s, and that only after over 20 years of field trials and testing.

As these regulations are defined as a snapshot in time—focusing on how the materials are manufactured instead of how they should perform—new technologies that offer better performance and cost advantages can't currently qualify for major infrastructure programs. And, since it takes about 17 years to take a new technology through the regulatory specification cycle, most innovative technologies fail to ever reach beyond the test phase, much less to ever achieve full scale deployment.

Using these last-century manufacturing techniques means we have to use more metal and spend more, when more durable and safer innovation would work. It means that now and for the foreseeable future, infrastructure requires more frequent replacement or the possibility of major failure when degradation and corrosion set in.

Why is it so important we employ the best-available metals technology? Because corrosion is a quiet infrastructure killer. Corrosion degrades—sometimes catastrophically. When you read about bridge collapses and unsafe structures, think corrosion. Corrosion is a budget-buster—using lower quality metals which corrode quickly creates a ruinous cycle of more maintenance and faster required replacement of our infrastructure. The National Association of Corrosion Engineers pegs the direct cost of corrosion in the U.S. at over 4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of our Nation.

Innovative companies across our Nation have answered the call to improve America's infrastructure by reinventing the metals industry. As an example, our nanolaminated metals—using a different manufacturing technique than traditional metals—corrode significantly less, are stronger and lighter, and can require less energy and materials to produce. At Modumetal, we have demonstrated structures that resist corrosion thirty times longer for the same basic cost as the currently-specified materials. This means our bridges could last hundreds of years instead of decades. The net result: safer, longer-lasting infrastructure for less money.

Mr. President-Elect, you have the opportunity now to work with Congress to approve legislation that incentives industries to use innovative materials of construction, based on safer performance-based specifications. Such legislation could provide an incentive tax credit for technologies that extend the life and performance of our infrastructure, thus encouraging competition and adoption of best-performing, lowest-cost, state-of-the-art corrosion mitigation technologies for our Nation's infrastructure and industrial applications.

You don't have to accept the status quo, and I hope that our Government will work together to seek and take on the challenge of innovating, to achieve a national infrastructure that is second to none, at a price that will be sustainable for generations.

#### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2017*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, Friday we commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day. A day that was established by the Israeli Parliament in 1951, to coincide with the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

This is a time to mourn the millions of victims of the Holocaust. And it serves as an annual reminder to Americans, and indeed to all humanity, that we must never forget the evil that mankind has visited upon itself.

History must serve as a template to right the wrongs that humankind has committed. Famously said, those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

This week we must reflect on grave consequences of which vilifying individuals based on race, religion, ideology or sexual orientation could yield.

I encourage all those in Western New York and across the country to join in memorializing the victims of the Holocaust, in hope that a tragedy of this scale is never committed again.

#### HONORING REECE DWIGGINS

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2017*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Reece Dwiggin. Reece is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 81, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Reece has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Reece has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Reece earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Reece also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Reece sorted, filed and cataloged all of the choir, organ and piano music for his home church, Macon First Christian Church in Macon, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Reece Dwiggin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING ACT

##### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2017*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Transition-To-Success Mentoring Act to help local education agencies prepare at-risk students for the transition from middle school to high school.

During middle school, studies show that many students struggle to balance priorities between school, peer groups and their lives at home. Research also indicates that school-based mentoring is an innovative supplement to the traditional learning that takes place in the classroom. Mentoring provides underserved and at-risk students with much needed attention and support to help keep them engaged in school. For these reasons, I am proposing the creation of the Transition-To-Success Mentoring Program. With this bill, students participating in the program will develop and execute a plan for academic progress with the assistance of a school faculty member or volunteer from the community.

#### RECOGNIZING ROSE BLACKWELL

##### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 24, 2017*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rose Blackwell on her retirement and to recognize her outstanding career as City Clerk of Corning, New York.

Mrs. Blackwell was appointed City Clerk by Corning Mayor Daniel Killigrew in 1984 and worked in that capacity for over 30 years. She served through numerous changes in city government and clerked under eight city mayors. It was during my own time as Mayor of Corning that I came to recognize Mrs. Blackwell for her dedication and caring service to the people of our community.

Mrs. Blackwell completed training at Syracuse University, Maxwell School in 1993 and received the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 1994. In 1996, she was appointed Registrar of Vital Statistics for Corning, New York, a responsibility she maintained alongside her duties as City Clerk to the end of her career.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Rose Blackwell for the dedication with which she served the citizens of her community and wishing her all the best in her well-earned retirement.